

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

The Transitional Living Program (TLP) offers different living situations for youth ages 16 and older to practice the life skills training they received in the classroom setting. Ideally TLP offers experience for youth from a more restrictive to a less restrictive setting, based on the readiness of the youth. These living situations allow for some autonomy but still provide needed support and supervision will increase the likelihood of self-sufficiency. TLP placement options include:

Transitional Living Advocate

The transitional living advocate is an adult, 21 years of age or older, who provides the youth a safe place to stay, continued life skills training, encouragement and guidance in regard to employment, education and/or training, and preparation for successful transition from DFS custody. The advocate must complete the following prior to approval: Successful completion of 18 hours of pre-service, specialized training on adolescent issues through the Children's Division; A criminal and child abuse/neglect background screening An approved home study completed by the Children's Division case manager/service worker, in the county that the advocate resides; and Register with the Family Care Safety Registry.

The Family Support Team, including the youth meet to design a transitional living plan or review the current permanency plan to determine if this is the most appropriate placement. The youth must be at least 16 years old and be currently attending or successfully completed the Division's ILP Life Skills training classes. Youth are encouraged to have pre-placement visits with an approved advocate to increase the likelihood of a successful match. Once the TLA placement occurs, the youth receives \$586 per month maintenance: \$450 per month of this is paid by the youth to the advocate for food, rent and other expenses related to assisting the youth to learn to live independently. The youth uses the remaining \$136 per month for other expenses such as clothing, school, work, personal hygiene, transportation, etc.

Transitional Living Group Home

A licensed, residential, child care site where older youth (ages 16-20) concentrate on preparation for independent living and completion of their educational/vocational programs in a supervised group setting. Youth typically have been residing in a residential treatment facility. Youth are expected to maintain employment and develop goals and plans for their future. Youth must be at least 16 years old and be currently attending or successfully completed the Division's ILP Life Skills classes. All facilities that are contracted as TLP group homes are licensed as residential child care agencies

Transitional Living Single/Scattered Site Apartments

This placement option offers youth (ages 17-20), ideally transitioning from a TLP group home, the opportunity to practice life skills and prepare for the future, in an apartment setting. Youth who are considered for this type of placement must demonstrate the ability to make responsible decisions, be willing to maintain employment, and have a clear understanding of the financial and emotional demands of living independently. They must have successfully completed the ILP Life Skills classes. Youth in this type of placement receive support and guidance, but supervision is minimal.